regulations. Some of the affected taxi drivers have contested this and have approached the British Commission for Racial Equality for redressal.

As far as local licensing & regulations are concerned, this is the sole prerogative of the concerned British authorities.

Economic Relations with Republic of South Africa

7684. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to forge special economic relations with the Republic of South Africa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Trade and economic relations were resumed with South Africa in October, 1993. With the formation of a new multi-racial, democratic Government in South Africa, there is considerable interest among Indian business and trading circles to forge close economic links with that country. There is a strong potential for bilateral economic cooperation particularly in the fields of small scale industries, low-cost housing, technical training and pharmaceuticals.

US Ambassador's Threat to India on "Prithvi" Missile

7685. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Frank Wisner, the U.S. Ambassador-designate to India has threatened India that induction of missile "Prithvi" will leave worse results; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard stating the clear stand of the Government on Missile programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) In response to a question during the course of his confirmation hearings before the Near East and South Asia Sub-Committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, US Ambassador-designate to India Mr. Frank Wisner stated that Prithvi was an indigenously produced missile of short range which was not, so far as he knew, configured for nuclear warhead. Wisner added that the US position was that India should consider the consequences of missile deployments when tensions were already high. He said that the Prithvi had not yet been deployed and hoped that Government of India would not undertake deployment.

The US State Department issued a clarification on 31 May, 1994 that Ambassador Wisner was reiterating the long-standing position of the United States which had been addressed in bilateral consultations with both India and Pakistan.

(b) Government remain committed to a policy of determining the course of India's missile programme on the basis of India's national security requirements.

US Efforts to Supply F-16 Planes to Pakistan

7686. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US efforts to find a way to supply F-16 planes to Pakistan has again put pressure on Indian defence system;

(b) whether the Prime Minister of India took up the issue with the US administration explaining its ramifications in Indo-Pak equilibrium; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government remains committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

Review of Appointment of Non-IFS Persons in Diplomatic Assignments

7687. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons not belonging to the Indian Foreign Service have been appointed as Ambassadors and High Commissioners of India in various countries;

(b) if so, what are the names of such persons and the countries where they have been posted;

(c) by when their term of office is scheduled to be completed; and

(d) whether Government are reviewing the policy of appointing non-IFS persons in diplomatic assignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is given below:—

Sl. No.	*Name of Ambassador/ High Commissioner*	*Country of Accreditation*	*Country of concurrent Accreditation*	*Date of Completion of tenure*
1.	Shri Kushok Bakula	Mongolia	—	31.12.94
2.	Prof. C. Lakshmanna	Trinidad and Tobago	Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Christopher and Nevis, Anguilla, Montserrat.	30.06.94
3.	Dr. Bimal Prasad	Nepal	—	31.12.94
4.	Shri D.S. Pannun	Ghana	Togo, Burkina Faso, Liberia and the Central African Republic.	04.03.95
5.	*Dr. G.S. Rajhans	Laos	—	09.11.94
6.	Shri S.S. Ray	United States of America	Bahamas	28.10.94
7.	Dr. L.M. Singhvi	United Kingdom	—	01.04.96
8.	Dr. Har Swarup Singh	Maldives	—	28.03.95
9.	Brig. (Retd.) Bhawani Singh	Brunei	—	27.06.95
10.	Shri Pushkar Johari	Bhutan	—	Re-employed for 1 year w.e.f. 01.04.94

*Dr. G.S. Rajhans has been appointed as Ambassador of India to Cambodia and is expected to joint his new assignment shortly.

(d) No, Sir.